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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/532,382	04/21/2005	Yoji Kubota	Yokozawa C-9	9028
23474	7590	11/14/2006		
FLYNN THIEL BOUTELL & TANIS, P.C. 2026 RAMBLING ROAD KALAMAZOO, MI 49008-1631			EXAMINER MARTINEZ, JOSEPH P	
			ART UNIT 2873	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 11/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/532,382

Applicant(s)

KUBOTA ET AL.

Examiner

Joseph P. Martinez

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2873

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 August 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 August 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7-25-05, 4-21-05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Claims 11-17 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 8-28-06.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being fully anticipated by Betensky (4109995).

Re claim 1, Betensky teaches for example in fig. 2 and Table III, an imaging lens comprising a first lens (L1), a second lens (L2) and a third lens (L3) arranged in sequence from an object side (fig. 2); wherein the first lens is a meniscus lens having a positive power (Table III), whose convex surface faces the object side (fig. 2); the second lens is a meniscus lens having a negative power (Table III), whose concave surface faces the object side (fig. 2); the third lens is a lens having a negative power (Table III); the first lens has a strong

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power compared with the second and third lenses (Table III); at least the second and third lenses among the first, second and third lenses are aspherical on both sides (col. 3, ln. 43-46); and the aspherical surface of the third lens has one inflection point (fig. 2; at optical axis).

Re claim 2, Betensky further teaches for example in fig. 2 and Table III, the first lens has at least one lens surface that is aspherical (col. 3, ln. 43-46).

Re claim 3, Betensky further teaches for example in fig. 2 and Table III, the following condition is satisfied when a total focal distance of the imaging lens is f , and a focal distance of the first lens is f_1 : $0.5 < f_1/f < 1.5$ (Table III; col. 3, ln. 39).

Re claim 4, Betensky further teaches for example in fig. 2 and Table III, the following condition is satisfied when a total focal distance of the imaging lens is f , and distance from an incident surface of the first lens on the object side to an imaging surface is Σd : $0.5 < \Sigma d/f < 1.5$ (Table III).

Re claim 5, Betensky further teaches for example in fig. 2 and Table III, the following condition is satisfied when an Abbe number of the second lens is vd_2 : $50 > vd_2$ (Table III; col. 3, ln. 31).

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Re claim 6, Betensky further teaches for example in fig. 2 and Table III, a maximum exit angle of a principal ray in the imaging lens is 30 degrees or less (col. 3, ln. 21).

Re claim 7, Betensky further teaches for example in fig. 2 and Table III, the third lens has a peripheral portion of its lens surface on an image side, the peripheral portion being convex towards the image surface (fig. 2); and the third lens has a first and second lens surface (first and second surfaces of L3) with one inflection point (fig. 2; at optical axis).

Re claim 8, Betensky further teaches for example in fig. 2 and Table III, the following condition is satisfied when a total focal distance of the imaging lens is f , and a focal distance of the first lens is f_1 , a distance from an incident surface of the first lens on the object side to an imaging surface is Σd , and an Abbe number of the second lens is vd_2 : $0.5 < f_1/f < 1.5$ (Table III; col. 3, ln. 39); $0.5 < \Sigma d/f < 1.5$ (Table III); $50 > vd_2$ (Table III; col. 3, ln. 31).

Re claim 9, Betensky further teaches for example in fig. 2 and Table III, a maximum exit angle of a principal ray in the imaging lens is 30 degrees or less (col. 3, ln. 21).

Re claim 7, Betensky further teaches for example in fig. 2 and Table III, the third lens has a peripheral portion of its lens surface on an image side, the

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peripheral portion being convex towards the image surface (fig. 2); and the third lens has a first and second lens surface (first and second surfaces of L3) with one inflection point (fig. 2; at optical axis).

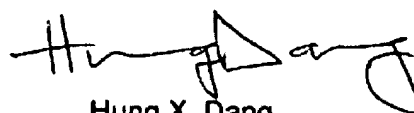
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph P. Martinez whose telephone number is 571-272-2335. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ricky Mack can be reached on 571-272-2333. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JPM
11-6-06



Hung X. Dang
Primary Examiner
TC 2800